Planning Series

Windy Lake Provincial Park

Preliminary Management Plan

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister

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Deputy Minister

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING SERIES

WINDY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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FOREWORD

The Windy Lake Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan is presented for public review.

This proposed plan presents an innovative approach in the provision of public recreational services. The 'near urban park' concept is particularly appropriate to better serving the year round recreational needs of the residents and visitors to the Regional Municipality of Sudbury.

Park development proposals are intended to complement and strengthen the growing tourism attractiveness of the Sudbury area. In association with the Preliminary Management Plan, an alternate accommodation development proposal in the form of a Four Seasons' Lodge/Conference Centre is being presented for public consideration. As the Ministry is presently evaluating the concept of alternative forms of accommodation and tourism services within Ontario Provincial Parks, we are particularly interested in your comments on this lodge proposal.

I encourage you to participate in this planning effort by making your thoughts known. Please forward any comments you may have on the preliminary plan by October 31, 1986 to:

District Manager
Sudbury District
Ministry of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 3500, Station "A"
Sudbury, Ontario
P3A 4S2

Telephone (705) 522-7823

Your participation will assist the Ministry of Natural Resources in refining this plan for Windy Lake Provincial Park.

J. A. Simpson
District Manager
Sudbury District

1. INTRODUCTION

Windy Lake Provincial Park comprises 139 ha and is located on Highway 144, 53 km north of Sudbury (figure 1). It occupies the north shore of Windy Lake, a popular cottaging, boating and fishing area. It is situated adjacent to a golf course and a major cross-country ski trail area. The nearest community is Onaping Falls some 4 km away.

Windy Lake Provincial Park was initially developed as a highway picnic site. It was established as a provincial park in 1959. It has been traditionally used for swimming, picnicking and camping by local residents and vacationers. More recently, the park has become a popular winter recreation area and is used in conjunction with the adjacent cross-country ski trails.

The natural environment of the park has been largely influenced by its glacial history. It has also been significantly altered by development. The park includes two long sand beaches each bordered by a flat plain that rises up to a sand plateau. The forest cover is typical of the surrounding area and consists of jack pine interspersed with poplar and white birch.

1.1 Management Planning

The Windy Lake Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan proposes policies that will guide the orderly development and management of the park over the next 20 years.

The management planning of Windy Lake Provincial Park began in 1981. Background analysis has found that the park is a significant year-round recreational resource in the Sudbury area which is moderately well used. It possesses considerable potential for increasing summer day use which is presently reliant on hot, sunny, swimming weather. The beach backshore areas have considerable development capability for supporting additional family play activities such as playgrounds, play apparatus and playing fields that would supplement the existing beach uses. A diversification of recreation uses would reduce the day use reliance on weather, extend the length of stay of existing users and attract new visitors. A need has also been expressed through user surveys for a beach food concession.

The park also contains excellent potential for enlarging the campground. This addition would provide more camping opportunities and increase the operational efficiency of the presently undersized campground. The area that could be developed for additional campsites is a very flat sand deposit.

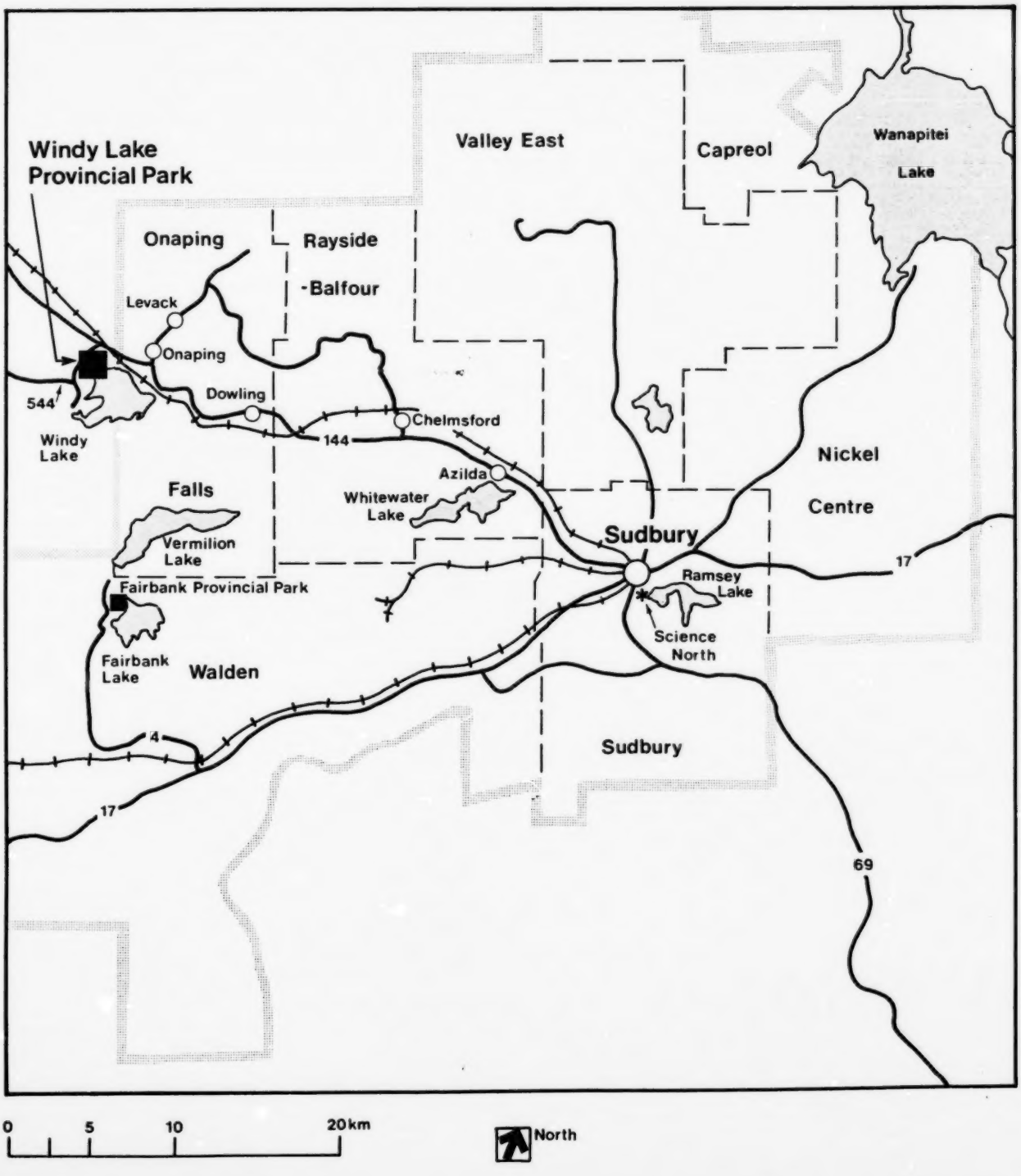
A compilation of the background information collected for the plan is provided in the Windy Lake Provincial Park Background Report (March, 1986).

1.2 Alternate Accommodation Development Proposal

Local involvement in the planning exercise has identified a need for a commercial accommodation in the park referred to as the Four Seasons' Lodge/Conference Centre. As indicated in Appendix I. this facility would provide an alternative accommodation for park visitors to enjoy the varied recreational opportunities of the park and surrounding area. The economic viability of this proposed park development would have to be determined through a feasibility study.

Figure 1

WINDY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Regional Setting



The development proposal is being brought forward in the Preliminary Management Plan to inform the public and receive their comments.

2. PARK CLASSIFICATION

Windy Lake Provincial Park will continue to be classified as a recreation park, one of six classes of Ontario Provincial Parks.

Recreation Parks are areas that support a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings.

The Windy Lake Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan has been developed in accordance with the recreation class guidelines as set out in the Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies and the Sudbury District Land Use Guidelines.

The focus of the plan is on realizing the park's year-round recreational and tourism potential. In the range of recreation parks, Windy Lake Provincial Park will be managed and developed as a 'near urban park' because of its existing facilities and use, recreational significance and close proximity to Sudbury (figure 2). This concept recognizes the potential that the park has to become a major year-round attraction in the Sudbury area.

3. PARK GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The following goal and objectives of Windy Lake Provincial Park were derived from the Ontario Provincial Parks Policy approved by Cabinet in 1978.

3.1 Goal

"To provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings."

3.2 Objectives

Recreation Parks contribute principally to the achievement of the recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism objectives.

- Recreation:

" To provide outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high intensity day use to low intensity wilderness experiences".

The park will continue to provide high quality beach, picnicking, playing, camping and cross-country skiing opportunities. The main development emphasis will be on realizing its summer day use potential for water and land leisure play activities.

The park operation will provide 63,800 summer day use beach-related opportunities, 10,600 winter day use cross-country skiing opportunities, and 9,628 car camping opportunities annually. An additional 4,640 car camping opportunities could be provided through campground expansion.

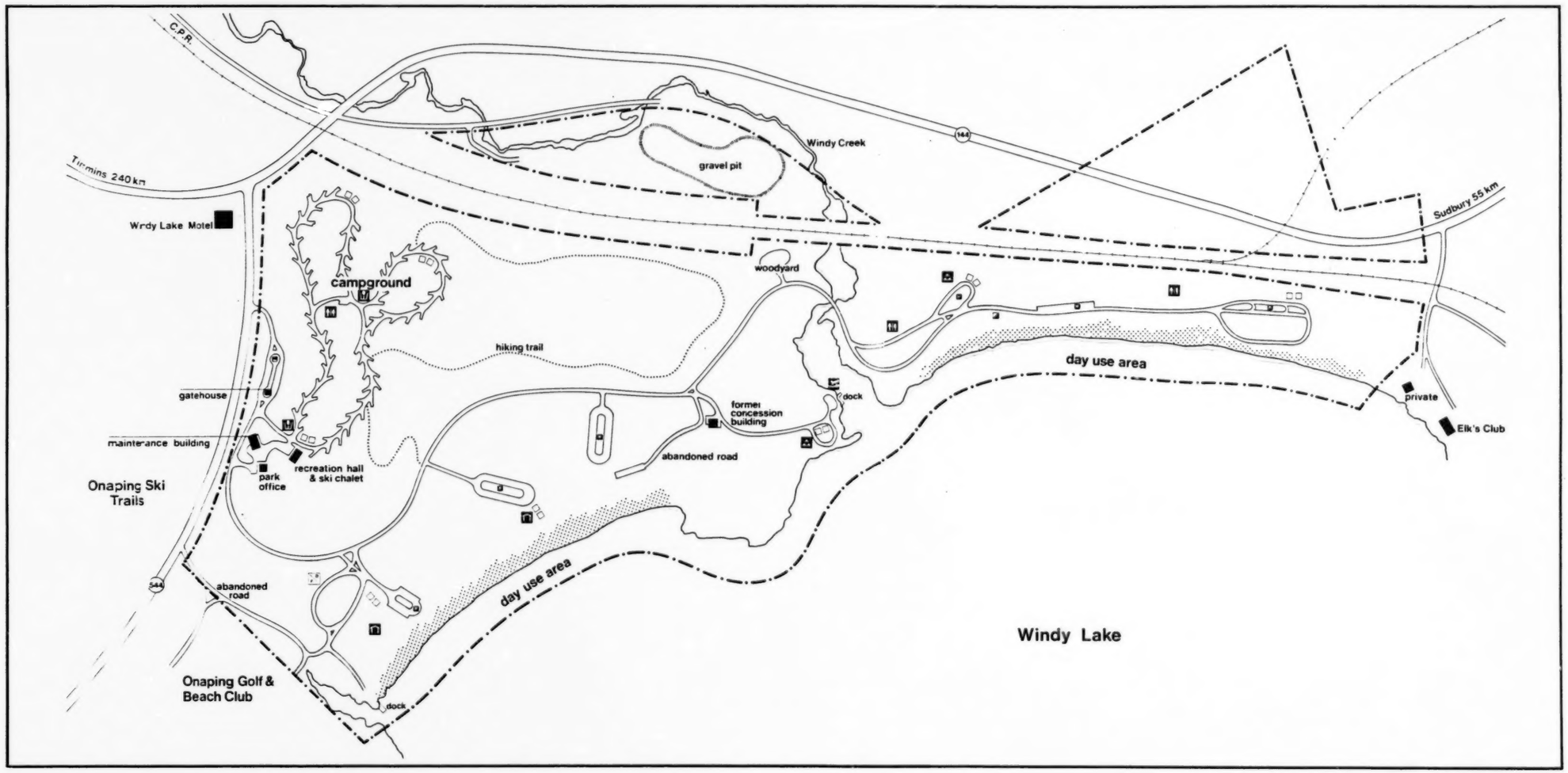
- Tourism:

"To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province."

Figure 2

WINDY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Existing Conditions

park boundary
shoreline
group camping
comfort station
garbage disposal
boat launch
trailer fill & dump station
picnic shelter
pumphouse
privies
buildings
parking
roads
railway
trail
beach



0 25 50 100 150 200 m

North

Windy Lake Provincial Park could play a significant tourism role as a major year-round recreational attraction in the Sudbury area. The park will be developed and managed to complement the tourist developments of Sudbury that include Science North, Ramsey Lake and the Big Nickel Mine.

- Heritage Appreciation:

The park contains a limited resource base . Viewing areas and walking trails will be provided for visitors to appreciate the natural and cultural features of the park and surrounding area.

- Protection:

Although there are no provincially significant natural or cultural features within the park, the existing natural environment will be maintained. Management programs will be implemented to improve the natural attributes of the campground and beach picnic areas. New development will be carried out with minimum impact on the park's natural and cultural resources.

4. PARK BOUNDARY

Windy Lake Provincial Park is situated within the geographic townships of Cascaden and Dowling in the Territorial District of Sudbury and contains an area of 139 ha (figure 2). The eastern half of the park, which comprises the Dowling Township portion, lies within the Regional Municipality of Sudbury. The park is crossed by the rights-of-way of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Highway 144.

It is bordered by Windy Lake to the south, Highway 544 (old Cartier Road) to the west, the Onaping Golf and Country Club to the southwest, the Elks Club to the east, and a mixture of Crown land and private property to the north.

5. PARK ZONING

Two development zones are proposed within the park (figure 3). Development zones provide facilities and services for a wide range of day use and camping activities.

The development emphasis will be on improving the D1 Zone to provide family play facilities and concession services to complement the existing beach activities. The D2 Zone includes sufficient area to accommodate the possible future expansion of the present campground.

An alternative accommodation development area has been identified in the D1 Zone. This area will continue to be managed as part of the D1 Zone pending the completion of a feasibility study for a Four Seasons' Lodge and Conference Centre. Further background information on this potential development is found in Appendix I.

- **D1** Shoreline Recreation Zone (74 ha)

This zone is mainly situated along the lake shore and contains two long sand beaches and adjoining picnic areas which are separated by the outlet of Windy Creek. The zone will continue to be primarily managed for intensive picnicking, sunbathing and swimming providing 63,800 summer day use opportunities. The zone has four distinctive areas that will be managed and developed as follows:

Figure 3

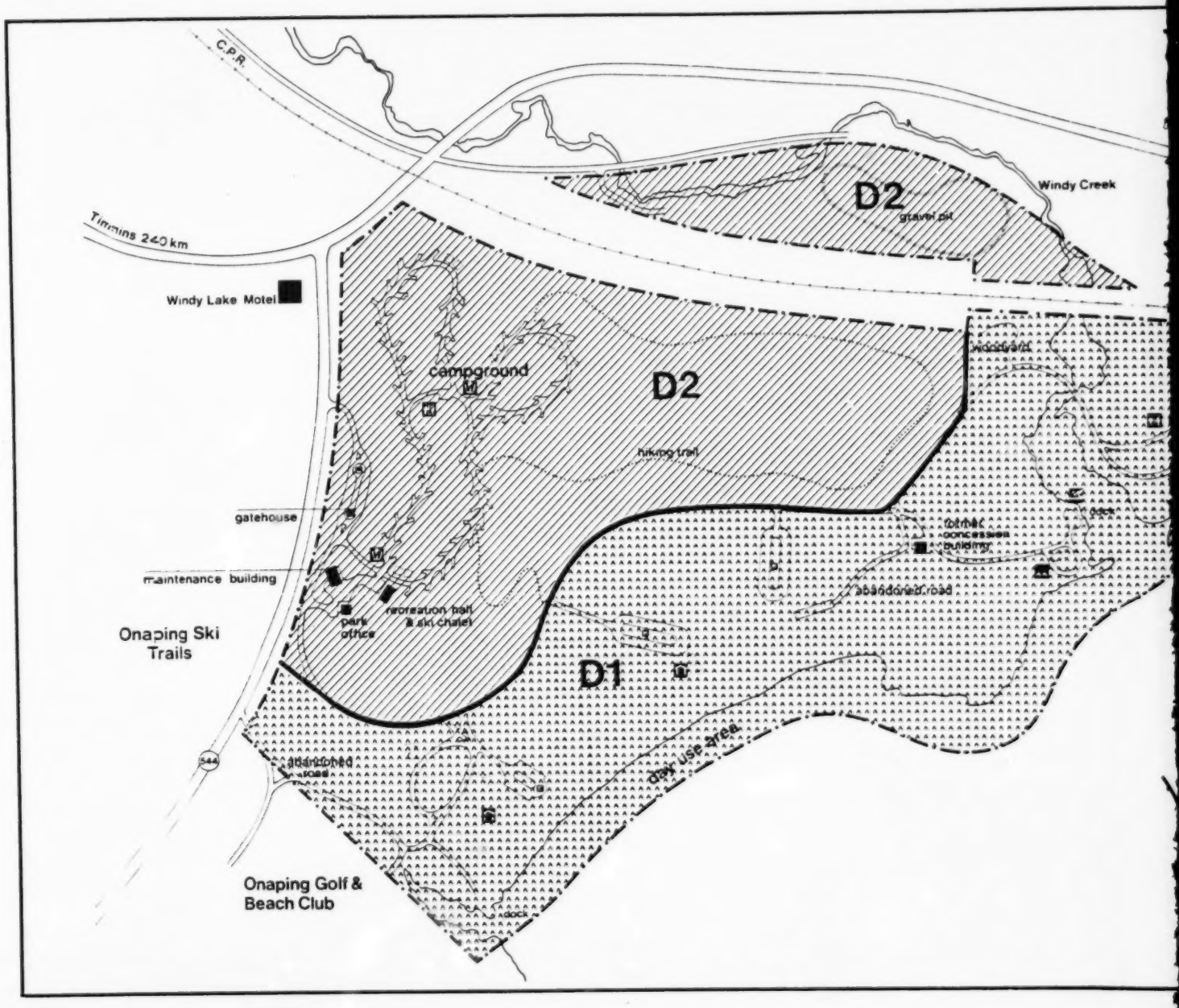
WINDY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Zoning

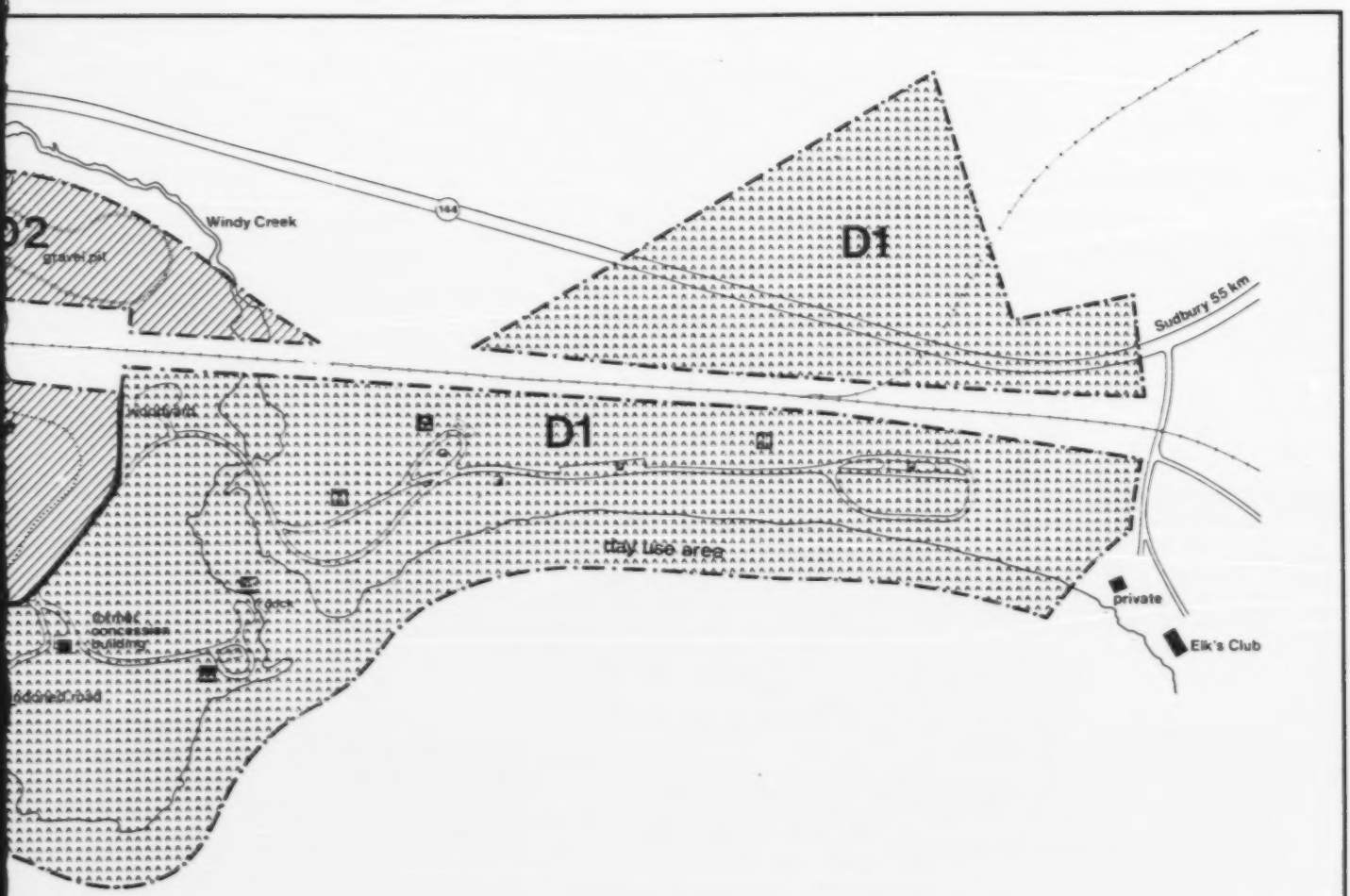
park boundary

shoreline

development zone 1

development zone 2




Windy Creek
144
gravel pit
D1
Sudbury 55 km
D1
day use area
private
Elk's Club

Windy Lake

East Beach

This is the most popular and best developed picnic area in the park. As its development potential has been largely realized, only minor additional facility development will occur to provide family play facilities. The adjacent area north of the railway line will be left undeveloped and managed to provide natural screening along the Highway 144 corridor.

Central Area

This area which surrounds Windy Creek contains two group camping areas and a boat launching site. The creek is well used by children for fishing and exploration. The area has considerable potential for water-based recreation opportunities and concession services. It is particularly well suited for providing a food concession service to day users due to its central location.

West End Beach

The recreational potential of this picnic and backshore area has only been partly realized. A major upgrading of the zone will be undertaken involving the development of a wide variety of play facilities. These will include playgrounds, play apparatus and playing fields. The diversity of activities offered will provide a major incentive in attracting new visitors to the park.

Alternate Accommodation Development Area

This area occupies the west end of the park and abuts the Onaping Golf and Beach Club. This part of the park is presently under-utilized and makes limited contribution in terms of day use opportunities. The Ministry of Natural Resources is exploring the possible alternate use of this area for a lodge and conference centre complex.

- D2 Campground Zone (51 ha)

This zone comprises the north-western section of the park which includes the campground and nature trail. It will be primarily managed to provide facility based car camping opportunities. The zone possesses excellent site potential to expand the campground. Campground expansion would involve an increase from its present capacity of 9,628 opportunities to supply a maximum of 14,268 car camping opportunities. Nature trail opportunities will continue to be provided along the existing trail.

The zone will also be managed for winter recreation use providing 10,600 winter day use opportunities. Cross-country skiing will continue to be provided along the campground roads while tobogganning and skating will occur in the area north of the railway line. The existing gravel pit will be maintained for park management purposes.

6. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource management of Windy Lake Provincial Park will be carried out in accordance with the park management plan. The existing park operating plan will be updated and revised in keeping with the direction provided in the management plan.

6.1 Natural Resource Management

The management of natural resources will be directed towards protection. Due to existing park development, there is very limited natural area. Significant natural features will be periodically monitored with management prescriptions and controls established as required to ensure their protection. The only significant natural area identified to date is the ravine that separates the two sand plateaus. This site provides a good representation of the earth and life science features of the park. Due to the fragility of the slopes, the site will be protected with development limited to the existing trail on the ravine bottom.

6.1.1 Vegetation

A vegetation management plan will be prepared for the park. Trees may be selectively removed for management and safety purposes. Wildfires will be actively suppressed.

In view of the heavy use of the developed portions of the park, on-going rehabilitation will be undertaken involving tree planting and grass seeding. This will be done to maintain a natural cover and prevent erosion. In addition, the Ministry of Natural Resources will work with the Canadian Pacific Railway to establish a natural vegetation cover on the railway banks to improve aesthetics and to minimize erosion.

Vegetation control will be permitted where necessary for public utilities and rights-of-way. If any spraying is undertaken, care will be taken to use the safest available herbicide and to do minimal damage to adjacent vegetation.

Insects and diseases will be subject to control where aesthetic, cultural, or natural values are threatened. Where control is necessary, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific problem so as to minimize effects on the other components of the park environment. Spraying will follow guidelines established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment. Biological controls will be used in preference to chemicals when feasible.

6.1.2 Wildlife

Hunting and trapping will not be permitted in the park.

6.1.3 Fisheries

The fishery will continue to be managed in accordance with the policies and regulations prevailing in the area. The Windy Creek mouth will be examined for possible spawning bed improvement. Consideration will also be given to the establishment of a put and take children's fishing area in the pond north of the road.

6.2 Water Management

The management of water will be directed towards the maintenance of good water quality and sufficient water quantity for fisheries habitat and recreational purposes.

Water quality will be monitored by the Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure human health and safety. The Ministry will continue to regulate lake levels through their operation of the Windy Lake dam.

6.3 Land Management

The management of land will be directed to complement the goal and objectives of the park.

6.3.1 Private Lands

All alienated lands and waters within the boundaries of the park will be acquired.

Falconbridge Limited owns some of the mineral rights of the park as well as the surface rights for parts of two patented parcels. The Ministry of Natural Resources is presently negotiating a land exchange with Falconbridge Limited to have the surface rights included in the park. This may involve the deletion of a small amount of park land along the eastern boundary.

6.3.2 Road, Rail and Utility Lines

The widening of the existing road, rail and utility line crossings of the park may be permitted to meet essential public service needs providing park values are not adversely affected.

6.3.3 Mineral Exploration

Mineral exploration and development involving the use of surface rights will not be permitted in the park.

6.3.4 Aggregate

The extraction of aggregate will not be permitted, with the exception of the existing gravel pit in the D2 zone for park management purposes. The pit will be rehabilitated upon closure.

6.4 Cultural Resource Management

Very little historical information has been collected to date on the park and no significant sites have been identified. The Ministry of Natural Resources will work with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to encourage archaeological and historical studies to occur. Any significant features that are found in the future will be protected.

7. COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Specified park services will be made available to the private sector and public organizations through concession agreements. These services are provided to enhance the park visitor's enjoyment of the park. This involves the existing winter cross-country skiing and fuelwood operations, as well as the proposed food and water sports concession and equipment rentals.

The existing co-operative arrangement with the Onaping Falls Nordic Cross-country Ski Club will be expanded. The club presently operates a 19 km trail network under land use permit that interconnects with the 3 km park trail. Under the present arrangement with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the club has a concession agreement to operate the ski chalet building in the park.

The Ministry will approach the cross-country ski club regarding an expanded concession agreement involving the park trails, entrance road, parking areas and ski chalet. The proposed agreement will adhere to provincial parks operating standards and involve the collection of park fees. In addition, the Ministry will encourage and assist the club in converting part of the ski trail network for hiking use.

In view of the uncontrolled access problems associated with the existing snowmobiling route, the Ministry will approach the Onaping Falls Snowmobile Club to examine ways of resolving this situation including the possible realignment or relocation of the trail outside the park.

8. MARKETING

The marketing effort of Windy Lake Provincial Park will be directed in accordance with the park marketing plan. The plan will be updated on a regular basis to accurately reflect market trends. Priority will be given to the promotion of the park's year-round day use recreational opportunities.

The near urban park identity of Windy Lake Provincial Park will be projected to the public through the visitor services and marketing programs. The park image comprising recreational pursuits along the land and water interface of the park will continue to be presented through the use of the park logo.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will work in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the community of Onaping Falls, the Rainbow North tourist association, and the Regional Municipality of Sudbury to co-ordinate the promotion of the Sudbury and area tourist attractions and services. Although priority will be given to the park as a day use attraction, emphasis will also be given to presenting Windy Lake Provincial Park as an accommodation base for area visitors coming to see the Sudbury and vicinity attractions.

9. VISITOR SERVICES

Visitor services will be managed in accordance with the park management plan, and provincial park operational policies, procedures and standards. The park operating plan will be revised in keeping with the direction provided in the management plan.

The primary purpose of visitor services will be to inform park visitors about the recreational activities and services in the park and surrounding area. Self-use approaches, such as publications and display panels will be the main methods used to deliver park information, resource interpretation, recreational skills and outdoor education.

9.1 Public Information

Information about park resources, management facilities, programs and nearby attractions and services will be made available to the public. This will include

information regarding the adjacent cross-country ski trails and golf course. This information will be disseminated at key points throughout the park such as the gatehouse, park office, ski chalet and bulletin boards.

9.2 Interpretation

Interpretive information about the park's natural and cultural features will mainly be provided through park literature. Some interpretive programs may be offered on a limited basis.

The park provides an excellent facility base for groups to explore and learn about the natural and cultural resources of the park and surrounding area. Groups and individuals will continue to be encouraged to use the park for educational purposes that are compatible with park policies.

9.3 Recreation

Recreation information will acquaint park visitors with the recreational activities and facilities available in the park. Where required, information will be geared to improve visitor skills in order to ensure safe use and maximum enjoyment of the park. Some recreational skills instruction may be provided on a limited basis.

10. DEVELOPMENT

Facility upgrading and new development will be undertaken in Windy Lake Provincial Park to fulfill its role as a near urban park providing diverse recreational opportunities for local residents and area visitors. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans and Environmental Assessment Act requirements. The location, design and materials of all facilities constructed within the park will, to the furthest extent possible, reflect its recreational character.

The following facilities will be requested through work program planning and special funding initiatives, with the exception of the alternate accommodation development proposal which requires further study and would involve private funding.

10.1 Park Roads, Traffic Flows, and Signs

The park entrance road and campground roads will be paved for dust control and as a maintenance efficiency measure. Necessary repairs and resurfacing of existing roads will be undertaken as required to provide a safe travel surface. In addition, two "Y" intersections will be realigned to improve visitor safety (see figure 4).

Viewing platforms will be provided on each end of the Windy Creek culvert. Park signs will be upgraded in accordance with a sign plan that will be prepared for the park.

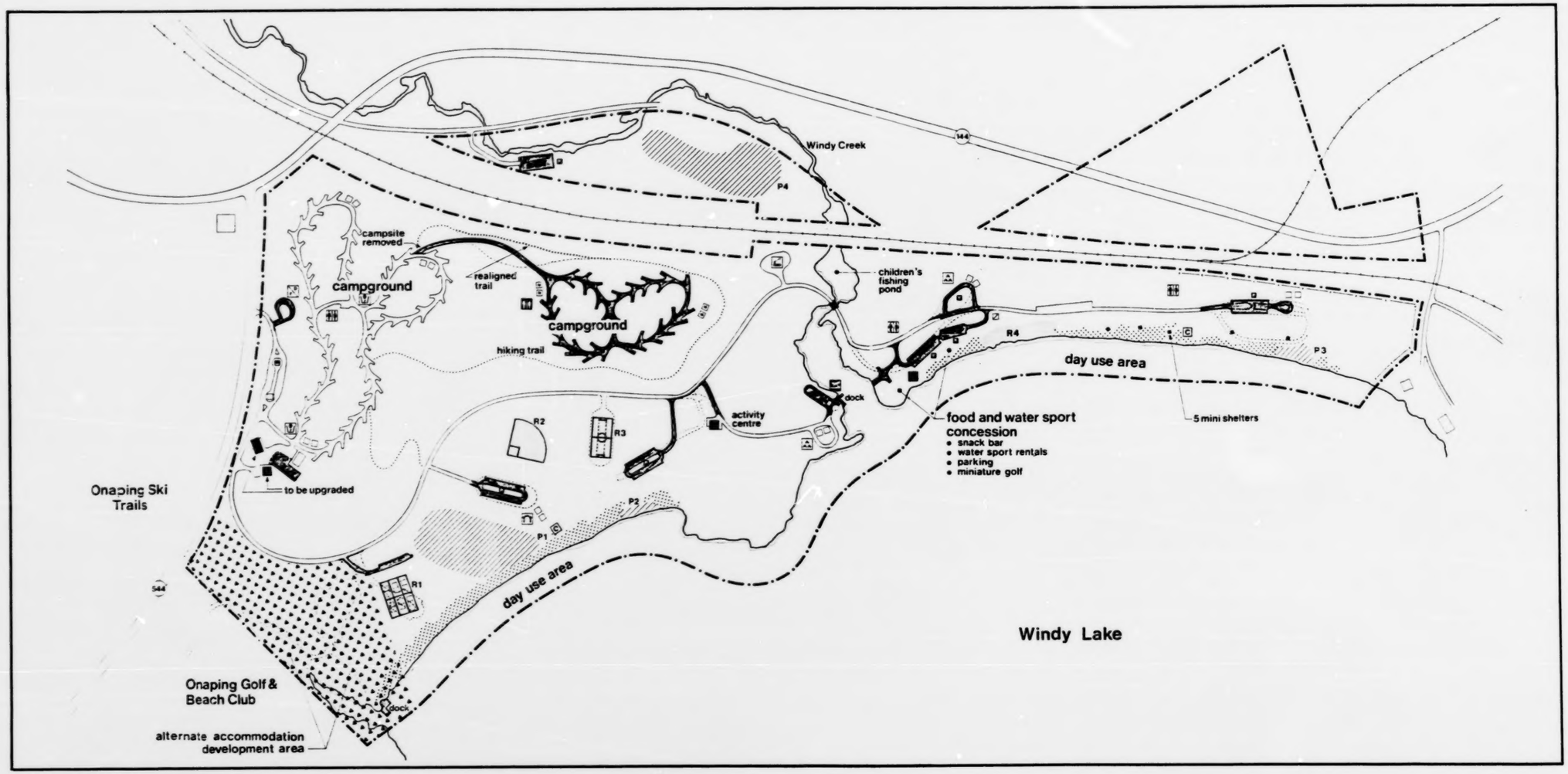
10.2 Playing Fields and Playgrounds

Several high quality family play and sport facilities will be developed, mainly adjacent to the west beach area. These will consist of playgrounds, baseball field, multi-purpose field, shuffleboard decks, and horseshoe pits, etc. The development of these play facilities will involve the realignment of an existing parking lot. Change houses will also be developed for beach users.

Figure 4

WINDY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Proposed Development

- park boundary
- shoreline
- roads to be removed
- new roads and parking lots
- fence
- P parking
- boat launch
- D F trailer fill & dump station
- N new privies
- C comfort station
- buildings
- recreation facility
  - R1 - 6 tennis courts
  - R2 - softball field
  - R3 - multi-purpose playing field
  - R4 - miniature golf course
- beach
- play area
  - P1 - creative playground
    - 6 shuffleboard decks
    - 2 horseshoe pits
  - P2 - 2 volleyball nets
  - P3 - tetherball
    - 2 volleyball nets
  - P4 - toboggan run



0 25 50 100 150 200 m

North

10.3 Food and Water Sports Concession

A building and associated facilities will be constructed adjacent to the Windy Creek mouth to provide fast food services and water rentals involving paddleboats, sailboats, canoes, and windsurfers. Docking facilities, a parking area, and miniature golf course will be developed as part of the concession operation.

10.4 Activity Centre

The former concession building will be upgraded to provide an activity centre for park visitors and local groups. This will involve a complete renovation of the building interior. Although it could continue to serve as the base for the Onaping Falls summer day camp, provision will be made for its use by other groups.

10.5 Campground

A new campground section could be developed as required involving campsites and comfort station with showers. This development will be dependent on an increased demand for the existing 83 campsites and will only proceed after the need for additional campsites has been determined. In the interim, additional electrical hook-ups will be installed on existing sites as funds permit. The trailer sanitation station will be relocated to the exit road near the park gate.

10.6 Park Administration Area

The park office will be upgraded to provide improved office and storage space. This will involve the removal of the existing staff sleeping quarters. The warehouse will be upgraded for winter use. The parking area will be enlarged to provide space for 50 vehicles for improved use of the ski chalet/recreation hall.

10.7 Park Boundary Fence

A 1 km fence will be installed along the northeast boundary to prevent illegal pedestrian and all-terrain vehicle access. This measure will help to reduce the vandalism problem encountered in this section of the park.

10.8 Toboggan Run

There are several slopes within the park that could be developed for tobogganing. This could be provided as demand warrants to complement the existing cross-country skiing use of the park.

10.9 Alternate Accommodation Development Proposal

A development opportunity has been identified for the possible construction of an alternate accommodation facility in the park. A site has been identified (figure 4) which could be made available through a long term lease.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Implementation of the management plan will involve resource management, visitor services, and the development of approved facilities. Implementation of the plan will be based on work program planning and special funding initiatives.

The park operating plan will be updated as facilities are upgraded or developed.

The following briefly summarizes the main priorities for implementation over the next twenty (20) years.

11.1 Resource Management

This will involve:

- preparation of a vegetation management plan;
- encouragement of archaeological and historical studies and outdoor education uses;
- examination of Windy Creek mouth to determine feasibility of: improving spawning beds, and a children's put and take fishery;
- acquisition of private properties in the park.

11.2 Visitor Services

This will involve:

- preparation of a sign plan;
- discussion with Onaping Falls Nordic Cross-country Ski Club regarding expansion of concession agreement and possible conversion of trails for hiking use;
- discussion with local Onaping Falls Snowmobile Club concerning concession agreement and access problems of existing route;
- working in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, community of Onaping Falls, Rainbow North Tourist Association and the Regional Municipality of Sudbury to co-ordinate the promotion of area tourist attractions and services.

11.3 Development

The following facilities and improvements will be done in phases as funds permit:

Phase 1

Completion of this phase will provide concession services and day use play facilities in the east beach and central areas of the park.

Work Program Priorities:

1. food and water sports concession building;
2. three tetherball poles and two volley ball nets;
3. one unisex changehouse

Special Funding Initiatives:

1. miniature golf course;
2. five mini-picnic shelters;
3. upgrade activity centre.

Phase 2

Completion of this phase will provide improved access, camper services and upgraded administrative facilities.

Work Program Priorities:

1. relocation of trailer dumping station;
2. additional electrical campsite hook-ups;
3. improvement of administration area involving upgrading of park office, warehouse and enlarged parking area.

Special Funding Initiatives:

1. 1 km of fencing along north-eastern park boundary;
2. road improvement involving paving of entrance and campground road.

Phase 3

Completion of this phase will provide day use play facilities adjacent to the west beach area. increase the use of this under-utilized area.

Work Program Priorities:

1. creative playground, six shuffleboard decks, and two horseshoe pits;

2. two volleyball nets;

3. one unisex changehouse;

4. multi-purpose playing field and realigned parking area.

Special Funding Initiatives:

1. tennis courts;

2. baseball field.

Phase 4

Completion of this phase will provide additional camping and winter facilities as required through public demand.

Work Program Priorities:

1. expansion of campground to include additional campsites and comfort station based on demand and site capacity.

Special Funding Initiatives:

1. toboggan run

In addition, depending on the outcome of the feasibility study, future development may involve the construction of an alternate accommodation facility.

12. PLAN REVIEW

The Windy Lake Provincial Park management plan will be reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout its 20-year lifespan. This review will be conducted in the following manner:

- review of the process leading to the initial management plan;
- update of background information and data about park resources and use;
- review the status of implementation of the approved management plan and provincial policies;
- identify Ministry of Natural Resources, other agencies and public issues of concern;
- prepare "issues and suggested solutions" document and present to public for their review and comment;
- review proposed revisions recommended by the public;
- prepare and receive approval for plan amendment.

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APPENDIX I

ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Appendix I

1.0 ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

1.1 Introduction

As indicated in the Preliminary Management Plan a development opportunity has been identified for a Four Seasons' Lodge/ Conference Centre. Such a development would complement the recreational amenities and natural resource features of Windy Lake Provincial Park.

The Four Seasons' Lodge/ Conference Centre would be a major commercial tourism development funded and administered by the private sector. It is a development proposal that can draw on the setting and facilities within and adjacent to the park to attract guests and also provide services and activities for park users.

This facility could provide a year-round accommodation base for park visitors and tour groups coming to experience the scenery and wide variety of recreational opportunities, including the beach and adjacent golf course and cross-country ski trails. It could also provide a variety of complementary tourism oriented services to park users, i.e. food & beverages, equipment & supplies, transportation & tour services, and park-based travel packages.

1.2 Feasibility Study

The Ministry of Natural Resources will require the undertaking of an external feasibility study to determine the viability of this proposed development.

The feasibility study would be carried out independently. It would be directed to establish the need for such a development, and evaluate the economic viability of the proposal. The study would consider the type and scale of operation most practical for development in association with the park, and examine alternative courses of action such as lodge only, conference centre only, a tourist service centre, or a combined facility.

Site alternatives would also be compared, including the location inside the park identified in the preliminary management plan, locations adjacent to the park, and sites at a distance removed from the park that could still draw on the park as a recreational resource.

1.3 Advisory Board

An advisory board comprised of representatives from the Ministry, local organizations and other appropriate Government agencies will be established to oversee the work on the feasibility study.

This group would ensure that the proposed development is compatible with the park and surrounding area, in keeping with provincial, regional and local objectives, and of net economic benefit to the community. The advisory group could also serve to guide the development and operation of the complex, should it proceed.

1.4 Development Concept

A concept outline for the centre has been jointly prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Town of Onaping Falls, and the local Rainbow North Tourist Association.

The main purpose of the Four Seasons' Lodge/Conference Centre would be to provide park visitors with a high quality alternate accommodation.

The centre could establish the Windy Lake Provincial Park and Onaping Falls area as an important tourism drawing card in concert with the other attractions of the Sudbury area. Joint promotion of tourist attractions in the Sudbury region would entice more people to take advantage of the available recreational and cultural opportunities.

1.5 Design Features

Initial consideration has been given to a design concept for the lodge conference centre which would complement the park. It is being presented here to provide a picture of the type of a facility that might be suitable in a park setting.

The following components could be part of the facility:

- main lounge with public gathering area and dining facility;
- room accommodation through a hotel-type unit or outlying cabins;
- conference/meeting rooms; and,
- other services as determined by the feasibility study.

Should the proposed Four Seasons' Lodge/Conference Centre be found to be economically feasible and acceptable, the portion of the D1 zone as shown on Figure 4 could be made available for long term lease. This leasing arrangement with the private sector would be dependent upon a development that complements the park goal, objectives, and policies.

The entire facility would be architecturally designed to blend in with the park scenery and shoreline aesthetics while taking advantage of the site terrain and lakeshore view. The Ministry of Natural Resources would reserve the right to approve the final architectural design and layout should development proceed.

The Ministry wants to ensure that the centre would be compatible with the park and neighbouring environment; that it adds something to what Windy Lake Park has to offer as a near urban recreation area without overshadowing the resource base and natural setting that make the park so attractive.